GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A B S T R A C T

Public Services – Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Complaints – Allegations of irregularities in payments of Crop Insurance Claims to a tune of Rs.10,39,085/- towards crop damage due to heavy rains in Kharif - 2021 to the ineligible farmers in Donekal (V), Vidapanakal(M) of Ananthapur District - Prima facie established –Initiation of disciplinary action against Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, under A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 – Issuance of Articles of Charge – Orders - Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 595 **Dated: 23-09-2024**

Read:

From the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur, Lr.No.Vig.I(2)AGC02-32026(32)/6/2023, dt.31.08.2024

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O R D E R:

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, with regard to irregularities in payments of Crop Insurance Claims to a tune of Rs.10,39,085/- towards crop damage due to heavy rains in Kharif - 2021 to ineligible farmers in Donekal (V), Vidapanakal (M) of Ananthapuramu District, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I), Statement of imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour on which action is proposed to be taken against her as Annexure-II, a list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the Article of Charge is proposed to be sustained are also enclosed as Annexure-III and IV.

3. Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, is directed to submit a Written Statement of Defense (WSD) within (10) days of the receipt of this order.

4. Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charge as are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Articles of Charge.

5. Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, is further informed that if she does not submit her Written Statement of Defense (WSD) on or before the date specified in para-3 above, or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 or the orders/directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the Inquiry Authority may hold the inquiry against her ex-parte.

6. Attention of Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, is invited to rule 24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further her interest in respect of matters pertaining to her service under the Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings it will be presumed that she is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for violation of rule 24 of the A. P. Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(P.T.O.)

7. The receipt of this G.O. shall be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To:
Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture®, Uravakonda.
Ananthapuramu District.
(through the Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur)

Copy to:
The Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.
(With a request to serve the original G.O. on the Charged Officer and obtain her dated acknowledgement on the Xerox copy and furnish the same along with her Written Statement of Defense (WSD) to the Government)
Sf/Sc.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

(Contd. Annexures...)

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SMT.S.PADMAJA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE®, URAVAKONDA, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT:

Article of Charge:

"That the said Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture (R), Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, has failed to check 20% of e-crop bookings randomly in RB-UDP app with regard to payments of Crop Insurance Claims towards crop damages due to heavy rains in Kharif-2021 in Donekal (V), Vidapanakal(M) of Ananthapuramu District and thereby given scope to Sri K.Vijaya Bhaskar, Village Agriculture Assistant, Donekal RBK, for the deviations in e-crop and payments made to ineligible farmers to a tune of Rs.10,39,085/-.

Thus, the above act shows her supervisory lapses and failure in discharging her legitimate duties which prove her 'misconduct' and attracts violation of Rule-3 of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964".

Sd/- B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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(P.T.O.)

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SMT.S.PADMAJA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE®, URAVAKONDA, ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT:

Basis of the Charge: -

The Deputy Register of Institution of Lokayukta of AP, through Notice Dis No.1554/2022/B2/LOK/7460/2022, Dated:26.08.2022, has informed that Sri B. Rambabu, Donekal village of Vidapanakalmandal has made a complaint against the then JDA, Anathapur, ADA® Uravakonda, MAO Vidapanakala duly alleging that certain Agriculture staff manipulated the enumeration list of crop damage occurred due to heavy rains in Donekal village of Vidapanakalmandal, as such the crop insurance claims are paid to the ineligible farmers i.e., followers of local Politicians though they doesn't possess any land and not sown any crop by making double entries on their names, even the claims are paid to vamidoddi, house plots and also changed crop name for some people. Further he cited the following examples in support of his compliant:-

a. Smt. P. Thulasamma W/o Kristappa as per 1B Katha No 40 with Sy.No 127-2 possess 1.00 Ac. and cultivated red chilly but as per the sanction list it is 5.77 Ac. and benefitted with claims amount of Rs.3,47,354/-

b. Sri Thammineni Lakshumanna S/o Subbarayudu, as per 1B Katha No 450 with Sy.no 181-A possess 2.28 Ac. where cotton crop was raised and claim amount of Rs.65,516/- sanctioned and further to the same extent i.e., 2.28 Ac. for Red Chilly benefitted with claim amount of Rs.1,37,256/- i.e., for a total extent of 5.56 Ac. was reflected.

c. Smt. Thammappagari Lakshumamma W/o ChinnaObulesu doesn't possess land but as per 1B Katha No 1800 with Sy.No 64A for uncultivated lands with extent of 2.24Ac. benefitted for 1.25 Ac. with claims amount of Rs.75,250/-.

d. Sri K. Sreenivasa Reddy S/o Basireddy as per 1B Katha No 210 with Sy. No 32-B1 for 0.28Ac. for Vami Doddi listed for Cotton crop and benefitted with claim amount of Rs.7,629/-.

e. No claim was paid to his mother Smt P. Lakshmi which exists in e-Crop booking as submitted below:

Mandal	Revenue Village	1 Survey No	Extent	Crop Sown
Vidapanakal	Donegal	301/2	2.70	B.T. Cotton
		89-C3	1.39	B.T. Cotton
		398-C1	5.00	Red Chillies 1
		234-B	2.00	Red Chillies

The Special Commissioner of Agriculture has appointed Sri V.D.V Krupadas, JDA(Inputs) as Inquiry Officers, subsequently the Inquiry Officer has submitted inquiry report, where in the findings of the enquiry Officer is as follows:-

Findings:

1. As per the guidelines and SOP of Crop booking issued vide memo no AGCO2-24024/27/2021-Agri.II dt.06.07.2021 by the Govt. Village Assistant is the primary worker for e-crop booking during Kharif 2021. There by Sri K. Vijaya Bhaskar, Village Agriculture Assistant is in charge of Donekal RBK of Vidapanakal mandal.

(Cont.p.3)

2. On examination of the explanation submitted by the Village Agriculture Assistant Donekal RBK, the details related to "actual crop booking village and date format of the Survey Nos". Letter addressed to M/s. Bakertilly (Software Vendor), the source agency notified during 2021-22 for e-Crop booking & Dr. YSR Free Crop Insurance Scheme for clarification and further M/s. Bakertilly reply submitted that to view the survey numbers in text format in excel instead of any other format viz., date format/ custom format/ General format. This will help to avoid any misunderstandings and ensure that the details furnished at the time of crop booking are retrieved as provided by the respective Village Agriculture Assistant. Accordingly, out of 20 records where the survey no is in date format15 records arc tallying with the data base and found eligible.

   Remaining 5 records remains with wrong survey No.

3. The statement and details provided by Village Agriculture Assistant on the allegations was verified at various levels and findings are as follows:

S.No.	Description	No of Records	Claim Amount Rs.
1.	**No of ineligible records as per petitioner**	**99**	15202812
2.	Verification at various levels found eligible	78	13176445
3.	**Balance records in eligible (1-2)**	**21**	28379257
A	A e-Crop booking done with excess area over Web land	10	632270
B	Wrong Survey No recorded as per Village Agriculture Assistant Statement	6	469469
C	Duplicates bookings found in-eligible	3	364287
D	Survey No for which crop booking done belongs to House site &VamiDoddi	2	39792
I	**Total**	**21**	**1504818**
B	**Wrong Survey No recorded as per Village Agriculture Assistant statement**	**6**	**469469**
B1	The details are verified with Meebhoomi portal and found that the details are matching with the farmer's name and extent but where the survey No recorded Wrong.	5	367747
B2	e-Crop booking done with excess area over Web land limited to the web land extent	1	97986
	Total (wrong survey no recorded but actual eligible farmers)	6	465733
II	**In eligible amount after consideration of wrong survey no recorded but actual eligible farmers**	**15**	**1039085**

Thus, Smt.S.Padmaja, Assistant Director of Agriculture (R), Uravakonda, Ananthapuramu District, has failed to check 20% of e-crop bookings randomly in RB-UDP app with regard to payments of Crop Insurance Claims towards crop damages due to heavy rains in Kharif- 2021 in Donekal (V), Vidapanakal(M) of Ananthapuramu District and thereby given scope to Sri K.Vijaya Bhaskar, Village Agriculture Assistant, Donekal RBK, for the deviations in e-crop and payments made to ineligible farmers to a tune of Rs.10,39,085/- and thereby violating Rule-3 of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964". Hence the Charge.

Sd/- B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

(P.T.O.)

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH ARTICLES OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SMT.S.PADMAJA. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE®, URAVAKONDA, ANATHAPURAMU DISTRICT PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED:

1. Notice Dis No.1554/2022/B2/LOK/7460/2022, The Deputy Register of Institution of Lokayukta.
2. U.O Note Roc. No.AGCO2-21025/33/2022-CIS, Dated: 18.04.2023 of the O/o. Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P.. Guntur.
3. Inquiry Report of Sri V.D.V Krupadas, JDA (Inputs), O/o C&DA., A.P., Guntur & Inquiry Officer, dated: 27.03.2023.

Sd/- B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

// FORWARDED BY ORDER//

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ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESS BY WHOM ARTICLE OF CHARGE FARMED AGAINST SMT.S.PADMAJA. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE®, URAVAKONDA, ANATHAPURAMU DISTRICT PROPOSED TO BE SUSTAINED.

-NIL-

Sd/- B. RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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